matters have to be kept steadily in mind for several years to come. I quite agree with you that our Sanitary Department is not at present sufficiently strong to cope with devastating epidemics like the last cholera epidemic in South Travancore and the resources of the Medical Department had to be called in to a large extent to supplement the existing Sanitary Department. The question of public health in Travancore and the agency to be created and the manner in which it should operate are all questions that are now under consideration in connection with the arrival of the representative of the Rockefeller Foundation. We will formulate a programme of activities and before very long we will be well on in adopting revised methods. Rural sanitation which you mentioned will also receive attention in that connection.

You referred to minor irrigation. I have before me now proposals for providing a more effective agency for dealing with it with promptitude. The whole question of minor irrigation will I trust come to a settlement before long.

The Director of Public Instruction is studying the whole position of vernacular education and the adequacy of the existing arrangements and I have no doubt that after he has had sufficient time to study the position in all its aspects, he will put up his proposals before the Government.

In regard to the Executive Council and the form of Government in Travancore I will give a collective reply to all members who may speak upon that subject.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-6 P. M. and reassembled at 3 P. M.

182. Administrative reforms with special reference to rural reconstruction.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAIR (*Member, Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) said that in order to improve the economic condition of the State it was absolutely necessary to establish self-governing institutions in the rural areas. The work which the Sanitary Department did towards the maintenance of public health in these regions was very meagre, while so far as other aspects of rural life were concerned there was no agency responsible for attending to them. In olden days Dewan Peishkars, Tahsildars and even Proverthicars used to get into touch with the people and to ascertain their needs and wishes. The general well-being of the people formed one of their main concerns. But now it was not so. The proper remedy for this was to bring into existence the Village Panchayats contemplated under the Village Panchayats Regulation and to entrust them with the task of rural reconstruction. The Regulation was passed several years ago, but the rules under it were not yet passed. This should be done soon.

An economic survey of the State should be undertaken as early as possible. Such a survey would enable one to measure the progress already made in the working of the various development departments

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

like those of Agriculture, Industries, Co-operation etc., and it would also indicate the lines along which future progress should be made.

Minor irrigation works in the State should be transferred from the control of the Public Works Department to that of the Department of Agriculture.

The educational policy of the State should be revised. The merely literary form of education prevalent at present should be given up and a better system substituted in its place. The formulation of a good educational policy depended entirely on the inclinations and sympathies of the controlling officer of the department, namely, the Director of Public Instruction. Government should therefore be very careful in the selection of proper persons to fill this place. A professor, however well he might be learned in his subject, would seldom make an efficient Director of Public Instruction, as in his professional life he had little or no opportunity of coming into contact with and studying the needs of the country and of the people. The office of the Director of Public Instruction should therefore be made interchangable with other high offices in the State.

The conditions of acting service in all departments should be regulated by a uniform rule. In the Secretariat and in the Account Office, if several persons were acting and if one of the vacancies in which they were acting terminated, the junior-most man among them was disbanded and the senior man was retained. In certain departments, however, like the Excise and Registration Departments, on the termination of a particular vacancy, the man who happened to be acting in that vacancy, be the length of his service in comparison with that of others great or small, was relieved. It would thus often happen that a man with a longer service had to give place to one with a shorter service. This injustice should be stopped.

The constitution and powers of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be revised and it should be given a statutory basis.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Nair, I quite agree with you that our District and Taluk officers have so much to occupy them that they are not able to devote the same time and care as they did in the past to the local needs and wants of each place. That is due mainly to the fact that the problem of the District and Taluk administration, with the advance of Government and the adoption of more up-to-date methods, has become so complicated that all their time is occupied. There are now such things as Income-tax, and Block Boards and Municipalities and things of that kind which were not in existence in the olden days.

You referred to the postponement in giving effect to the Village Panchayat Regulation. The rules have now been prepared and will be scrutinised after they have been before the public. I personally have great diffidence whether the Village Panchayats will be a success in the greater part of Travancore. It is only in South Travancore that the village system proper exists, in other parts there is no village system and the *kara* is the unit of combined action with the people of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

rural areas. However, we have gone so far, and I suppose that so long as the Regulation is on the Statute Book, it must be given effect to. I hope the rules will be promulgated before long.

You touched on irrigation. I have already commented on this question in reply to one or two representatives.

In the matter of educational policy the one point I wish to touch upon is your reference to the office of the Director of Public Instruction, that it should be thrown open to officers of other executive departments of the State. As you are no doubt aware, in some parts of British India, the practice used to be, of having as Director of Public Instruction a civil service officer. For some years, however, they are having educational officers as Directors of Public Instruction. The reason for this is almost self-explanatory. Education is a highly specialised problem now and its needs are almost a life-study, particularly in the case of primary and secondary education. The civilised world generally has begun to realise the need, the very great need, for attention being devoted to important problems of child psychology, methods of imparting knowledge, mind and character development, school health and hygiene, and so on, all of which means that education is becoming a highly specialised and technical subject. In the circumstances, I doubt whether it will be wise or altogether sound that, say the Commissioner of Police or the Railway Engineer, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Director of Registration or a District Magistrate should be the Director of Public Instruction.

You referred to the clerks in the Excise and Registration Departments and you spoke of the system of promotion and appointment which you would like to see being dealt with as in the Chief Secretariat. There is this difference. In the Registration and the Excise Departments, there are a certain number of executive appointments which are partly recruited from the ranks of clerks. If these executive appointments have to be filled up immediately, they must have a body of men ready at a call at short notice. Whether such a system of appointments and reversions as you suggest can be evolved is a matter which I shall take up in conjunction with the heads of those departments.

In the matter of the reconstitution of the Assembly I should like to give a collective reply after hearing all the members who have to speak on this subject.

183. How the Government can share the burden of administration with the people.

MR. JOSEPH MALIAKAL (*Member, Nominated*) said that Government could adjust their resources to the growing demands of the people in more than one way. In the first place they could devolve some of their administrative functions to self-governing bodies. In Travancore, there were already the municipal councils and the village panchayats, the latter not yet in actual existence. These local bodies fulfilled or were designed to fulfil certain administrative functions for

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly